

It is a wonderful piece of legislation that is going to help American families, and there is a key provision of this act which is going to fix a broken problem. I came to Congress to fix broken problems with commonsense solutions.

Earlier this year, this body, the Senate, and the President passed the water resources bill, which fundamentally fixed the problem of the inland waterway trust fund, but it was still underfunded.

I want to thank colleagues on both sides of this House for working with me—for working hard—to get an industry-supported user fee of 9 cents. What that will mean is that locks like the Chickamauga Lock in Chattanooga, which is near and dear to our district, and locks all over this country will now be able to be properly funded in the way in which they were intended.

Together, we can work hard to fix these problems. I urge the support of the ABLE Act, and I thank my colleagues for working hard to support this industry-supported user fee.

□ 1215

#### IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, more than 18 months ago, the Senate passed a comprehensive and bipartisan immigration bill that would strengthen neighborhoods across the country, further secure our borders, inject certainty into our economy, boost our STEM and tech community, create jobs, protect employers, keep families together, our deficit would be reduced by nearly \$1 trillion, and fix our Nation's broken immigration system. That was 18 months ago.

More than a year ago, we introduced H.R. 15, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act, which would have moved comprehensive immigration reform forward, a debate so far that has been dominated by partisan politics and obstruction.

All we are asking for is the chance to vote on the bill in this body, a simple up-or-down vote. That is all we ask. We are running out of time to act on immigration reform and pass legislation that an overwhelming majority of Americans have asked the House to approve for more than a year.

Again, I ask this body to put the interests of the country above those of party politics and give H.R. 15 the up-or-down vote it truly deserves.

#### McKINNEY, NUMBER 1 SMALL CITY IN AMERICA

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Money magazine recently

ranked America's best small cities. 781 cities were evaluated. The 35 top-scoring cities were visited by reporters. And wouldn't you know it, McKinney, Texas, was ranked number one as the best place in the United States to live.

It is worth noting that McKinney joined the list in 2008 and has steadily climbed each year. As Money magazine stated: "Underlying McKinney's homey southern charm is a thoroughly modern city. The area is a hotbed for growth-industry jobs."

McKinney certainly embodies its motto, "Unique by Nature." It is both a business-friendly and family-friendly place. And perhaps most significant, it places emphasis on both preserving history and ensuring a vibrant future.

I am proud to represent McKinney and the Third District of Texas. McKinney deserves this honor. It is my privilege to recognize their outstanding service to the community.

#### POLICE BODY CAMERAS

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, hands up; don't shoot.

The recent events in Ferguson have brought to light many of the problems that still exist in our Nation: racial divides, mistrust of law enforcement, a judicial system that disproportionately incarcerates black men, and the unfortunate way that we view one another—not as Americans, but as us versus them.

I am encouraged by President Obama's initiative that will help purchase body cameras for police departments. This will increase accountability of law enforcement, and it will protect our officers by deterring wrongdoing.

I am proud that the two cities in my district, Newark and Jersey City, are taking the lead to acquire cameras for their police officers, because members of the community deserve to feel law enforcement is protecting them and not out to get them; and, in turn, our protectors deserve to be protected as well. This will be a step in the right direction.

#### TRIBUTE TO AIR FORCE CAPTAIN WILLIAM H. DUBOIS

(Mr. TIPTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Air Force Captain William H. DuBois, whose life was tragically lost in support of Operation Inherent Resolve on December 1, 2014. Captain DuBois grew up in New Castle, Colorado.

On Monday, December 1, 2014, Captain DuBois took off from a U.S. coalition air base for a combat mission in Operation Inherent Resolve, when the

F-16 he was flying began to experience mechanical problems. Captain DuBois attempted to return to the air base and was unable to eject before his plane crashed.

Captain DuBois was only 30 years old and was recently married to his wife, Ashley. The number of lives touched by this courageous young man are innumerable, and the love and memories he shared with his friends and family still linger today.

The death of Captain DuBois is an unfortunate reminder of the dangers our servicemen and -women face every day as they defend our country, as well as many sacrifices made to protect freedoms and our way of life.

Captain DuBois served his country with great distinction and honor, something that he always had dreamed of. He will be greatly missed by his family, friends, and his squadron.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Captain William H. DuBois. His dedication to our country and the way he selflessly lived his life serve as an inspiration to a grateful Nation as well as the State of Colorado.

#### PORT NEGOTIATIONS

(Ms. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the hardworking men and women employed at our west coast ports who are responsible for two-thirds of our Nation's international trade. Their hard work supports 5 million jobs nationwide and is the lifeblood of our economy.

But they have been working for months without a contract and without knowing what the future holds for them. Contract negotiations are ongoing, and I encourage both sides to stay at the table. Failure to resolve their differences could be traumatic for our economy, and I sincerely hope that it will not come to that.

Many people are aware that we still have congestion issues at our ports. There are clearly underlying problems that must be addressed, but it is important to keep in mind that these issues will still exist even if a contract agreement is reached today.

Our ports drive our Nation's economy, and it is critical that we find solutions to the congestion issues at our ports and in our overall freight network.

#### NATIONAL MINERS DAY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the proud grandson of Oscar Thompson, a surface miner, to recognize National Miners Day, which is celebrated on December 6. On this day, we recognize the important role our Nation's miners continue to play across the Nation.

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, my home State, the mining industry—the coal industry, in particular—is a vital contributor to the State's economy, with direct, indirect, and induced impacts that are responsible for family-sustaining jobs and billions in economic output. In 2011, Pennsylvania produced more than 67 million tons of coal from close to 500 mines, making it the fourth-largest producer of coal and the second-largest producer of electricity among all the States.

Today, coal is used to generate more electricity than any other resource in Pennsylvania, being responsible for 44 percent of the State's electricity generation.

On National Miners Day, we commemorate the work and sacrifice of miners, past and present, and recognize the contributions they make to our economy, the Nation's energy security, and our shared prosperity.

#### THE AMOS HOUSE

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute the work of Amos House and its mission to end hunger and homelessness in my home State of Rhode Island. Having just celebrated Thanksgiving, it is a good reminder of how important it is to remember those who are less fortunate and to give back to the communities we live in.

Led by Eileen Hayes, Amos House and its dedicated staff give back to Rhode Island every single day and provide life-giving services to those most in need. Since its founding in 1976, Amos House has grown from a small soup kitchen to a vibrant and essential multiservice center. This week I was proud to help break ground on a new project that will give Amos House a new home and help this wonderful organization further its important work.

Amos House serves hundreds of meals daily to the hungry, provides shelter for homeless men and women, substance abuse counseling, job training, and money management classes. I salute Amos House, Eileen, and her hard-working staff for the important contributions they make to those most in need in my home State of Rhode Island.

#### CELEBRATING FORMER REPRESENTATIVE RALPH REGULA'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

(Mr. GIBBS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GIBBS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 90th birthday of former Representative Ralph Regula.

Ralph Straus Regula was born in Beach City, Ohio, on December 3, 1924. Prior to his election to Congress, Mr. Regula served in the United States Navy; worked as a schoolteacher and a

principal in Stark County schools; and served in the Ohio State House, Senate, and on the Ohio State Board of Education. In 1973, Mr. Regula was elected to Congress and served 18 consecutive terms, until his retirement in 2009.

During his tenure in Congress, Mr. Regula served as chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee for Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, where he worked across party lines to improve educational opportunities, workforce training programs, and health care. He was a passionate advocate for research and the advancement of science.

Congressman Regula billed himself a “regular” guy. He was the son of a dairy farmer and part of a high school graduating class of only 25, where he developed a strong work ethic and love of community. Ralph loved serving here because he cared about people and helping improve the quality of their lives. In this House, he was a pragmatic leader willing to find solutions to tough problems.

I have personally known Ralph for over three decades and have many fond memories meeting with him both here and back in Ohio as my Congressman. Like many others, I have learned so much from Congressman Ralph Regula over the years. To that, I say thank you.

Today I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the great life and career of Mr. Ralph Regula, wishing him a very happy 90th birthday.

#### AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

(Ms. ADAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Affordable Care Act. One year after implementing the health care exchanges, the number of uninsured in this country has decreased dramatically. North Carolina had one of the top five highest enrollments; and in my congressional district alone, the number of uninsured has declined by 14 percent, not to mention the incredible impact this legislation has had on the lives of working families.

Through the Affordable Care Act, 208,000 individuals in my congressional district now have access to health insurance. Young adults and college students can now stay on their parents' plans until age 26, which resulted in nearly 10,000 young adults retaining health insurance in my congressional district. Additionally, seniors in my district have received Medicare part D prescription drug discounts worth \$11.1 million, and being a woman is no longer considered a preexisting condition.

The Affordable Care Act has had a dramatic effect on unemployment, creating 9.6 million private sector jobs. My congressional district's unemployment rate is 13.9 percent. So, for me,

this is not only about health, but jobs and our economy.

These tangible benefits cannot be ignored. I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to end talks of repeal and, instead, work with Democrats to strengthen the law to provide even greater access to health insurance. States like North Carolina must reconsider their decision to reject the Medicaid expansion. This purely political decision has had real effects, leaving half a million North Carolinians uninsured. As legislators, we should make the lives of our constituents better; and, Mr. Speaker, the Affordable Care Act is making the lives of our citizens better.

So I urge folks in my congressional district and around the country to take advantage of the open enrollment period and get insured. There are 77 new insurers offering coverage in 2015, and the deadline to sign up is February 15, 2015. Let's continue the progress that the Affordable Care Act has made and get more people covered.

#### AIR REFUELING GROUP RAINCROSS AWARD

(Mr. POMPEO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POMPEO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the 931st Air Refueling Group—McConnell Air Force Base's reserve unit—on receiving the Raincross Trophy, which recognizes it as the best unit in the 4th Air Force.

I have spent a lot of time with the fantastic airmen out of McConnell, and I am not surprised, but I am extremely pleased to see that they have been granted this outstanding award. It is only fitting that the 931st has been selected as the first reserve unit in the Air Force to fly and maintain America's new KC-46 tankers. McConnell-based tankers flew nearly half of all missions of Air Mobility Command's total KC-135 flying hours over the past year, and many of this unit's soldiers and airmen were deployed in support of operations all around the world.

This award is a wonderful recognition of the hard work of Colonel Mark Larson, Chief Master Sergeant Kathleen E. Lowman, and all the men and women of the 931st Air Refueling Group.

I know I speak for all Kansans in saying we are proud of the 931st and the entire McConnell family. November Kilo Alpha Whiskey Tango Golf.

#### NATIONAL 3-D PRINTING DAY

(Mr. FOSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support my resolution to establish December 3 as National 3-D Printing Day. As an entrepreneur, myself, who built a manufacturing company from the ground